EXHIBIT A

Case 3:20-cv-00312-KC Document 1-1 Filed 10/23/20 Page 2 of 58

Marilyn Burgess - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 46593336

By: Joshua Hall Filed: 9/25/2020 4:09 PM

| CAUSE NO. | |
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| | |

CATION NO

| CONNELL WEST TRUCKING CO. INC., | 8 | IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF |
|---|----------|--------------------------|
| FIDADELFO JUAREZ, and | 8 | IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF |
| GUCHARAN SINGH | 8 | |
| Plaintiffs, | 8 | |
| 1 шшууз, | 8 | |
| v. | 8 | HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS |
| • | \$ \$ | |
| ESTES EXPRESS LINES and CAROLYN | § | |
| DRIGGARS, as Representative of the Estate | · § | |
| of DEBORAH REGAN | § | |
| | § | |
| Defendants. | § | JUDICIAL DISTRICT |

PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

Plaintiffs CONNELL WEST TRUCKING CO. INC., FIDADELFO JUAREZ, and GUCHARAN SINGH ("Plaintiffs") file this Original Petition, complaining of Defendants ESTES EXPRESS LINES and CAROLYN DRIGGARS, as Representative of the Estate of DEBORAH REGAN, deceased (collectively "Defendants"), and in support of the same would respectfully show the following:

I. <u>Discovery Control Plan</u>

1.1 Plaintiffs intend that discovery be conducted under Level 3 and affirmatively plead that they seek monetary relief over \$1,000,000.00 at this time. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend this damage calculation as discovery progresses. Plaintiffs make this damage calculation at this time pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 47.

II. PARTIES

2.1 Plaintiff Connell West Trucking Co. Inc. is a corporation organized in California and authorized to conduct business in the State of Texas.

- 2.2 Defendant Estes Express Lines is a foreign for-profit corporation doing a substantial amount of business in Texas. Defendant may be served with process by serving its registered agent, Corporation Service Company d/b/a CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service Company, 211 E. 7th Street, Suite 620, Austin, Texas 78701.
- 2.3 Defendant Carolyn Driggars is a Texas resident and the surviving natural mother and heir of decedent Deborah Regan. Defendant Carolyn Driggars may be served with process at her residence located at 11616 White Leaf Court W., Fort Worth, Texas 76135 or wherever she may be found.

III. JURISDICTION & VENUE

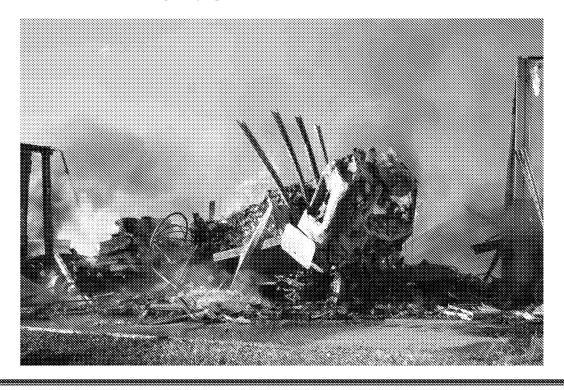
- 3.1 This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this lawsuit and the amount of controversy is above the minimum jurisdictional limits of this Honorable Court.
- 3.2 Venue is proper in Harris County pursuant to TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. §15.002(a)(3) because Defendant Estes Express Lines maintains its principal office at 7345 Roundhouse Lane, Houston, Texas 77078, which is located in Harris County.
- 3.3 The federal courts lack jurisdiction over this suit. Plaintiffs' claims raise no federal question, nor do they seek relief under a federal law, statute, regulation, treaty, or the Constitution. Accordingly, Plaintiffs' right to relief does not depend on the resolution of a substantial question of federal law. Further, this lawsuit cannot be removed because there is no diversity, as one of the Defendants is a Texas resident. Therefore, removal would be improper.

IV. FACTS

4.1 On or about Friday, September 27, 2019 at approximately 4:50 p.m., Plaintiffs were operating an 18-wheeler and hauling two trailers of cargo when they were involved in a

major interstate trucking collision near mile marker 102 on eastbound I-10. Plaintiff Connell West Trucking Co. Inc. ("Connell West") is a freight company based in California that ships goods and packages throughout the country. At the time of the incident, Plaintiffs Fidadelfo Juarez and Gucharan Singh were jointly hauling two trailers loaded with cargo from Connell West's headquarters in California to Houston, Texas.

4.2 Mr. Singh was operating the tractor truck while Mr. Juarez was off duty in the sleeper berth as they were approaching the Sierra Blanca Border Patrol Checkpoint in the right eastbound lane of I-10. Traffic was slowed due to the checkpoint and Plaintiff Singh was traveling approximately 10-15 miles per hour in accordance with the slow-moving traffic in front of him. At this same time, decedent Deborah Regan was operating an 18-wheeler also hauling two loaded trailers of cargo on behalf of Defendant Estes Express Lines and heading for Dallas, Texas. Suddenly and without warning, Regan failed to control her speed and crashed into the rear of Plaintiffs' vehicle at highway speed.





- 4.3 The force of the impact caused the cab of Defendant's vehicle to become completely flattened and engulfed in flames. The fire also incinerated the trailer Defendant was hauling immediately behind its cab, as well as Plaintiff's trailer that was directly impacted by the crash. Immediately following the collision, Plaintiffs, dazed and injured, went to the Estes Express Lines cab and attempted to pull Defendant Regan and her passenger from the burning vehicle. Plaintiffs were unable to remove the occupants from the Estes Express Lines 18-wheeler and Deborah Regan, as well as her passenger, Terry Huey, were both killed as a result of the force of impact and the fire that subsequently consumed their vehicle.
- 4.4 The Texas Highway Patrol conducted a "Major Crash Investigation" into the subject collision and found no evidence that Estes Express Lines driver Deborah Regan ever applied the brakes before colliding into the rear of Plaintiffs' vehicle and trailers. According to

Defendant's electronic GPS tracking logs, Regan's last known speed just before the crash was sixty-seven (67) miles per hour. Investigators were never able to identify any reason for Regan's failure to control her speed and concluded that her failure was the sole cause of the subject crash.

4.5 Plaintiffs Juarez and Singh suffered incapacitating injuries and Plaintiff Connell West sustained substantial property and business-related losses as a result of the high speed crash and destruction of their freight trailer.

V. NEGLIGENCE AND NEGLIGENCE PER SE

- 5.1 Defendants had a duty to exercise the degree of care that a reasonably prudent person driving a commercial vehicle would use to avoid harm to others under circumstances similar to those described herein.
- 5.2 Plaintiffs' injuries and damages were proximately caused by Defendants' negligent, careless, and reckless disregard of said duty.
- 5.3 On the occasion in question, the collision and Plaintiffs' damages were proximately caused by the negligence, carelessness, and recklessness of Defendants in at least one or more of the following, non-exclusive particulars:
 - (1) In failing to control the vehicle, as would have been done by a reasonable person exercising ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances;
 - (2) In failing to timely and properly apply the brakes, as would have been done by a reasonable person exercising ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances;
 - (3) In failing to maintain a proper lookout while operating a motor vehicle, as would have been done by a reasonable person exercising ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances;

- (4) In failing to take proper evasive action to avoid an impending collision, as would have been done by a reasonable person exercising ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances;
- (5) In engaging in distracted driving and/or operating a cell phone while driving, as would not have been done by a reasonable person exercising ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances;
- (6) In failing to reasonably and appropriately maintain the vehicle in good working order before operating it on public roadways; and
- (7) In driving the vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons, in violation of TEX. TRANS. CODE § 545.401, which also constitutes negligence per se.
- 5.4 Each and all of the above and foregoing acts, both of omission and commission, singularly or in combination with others, constituted negligence and negligence per se, which proximately caused the occurrence made the basis of this suit, and Plaintiffs' injuries and damages pled herein.

VI. VICARIOUS LIABILITY

6.1 Plaintiffs plead that at the time of the occurrence made the basis of this suit and all other times material herein, Defendant Regan was acting in her capacity as an agent, servant, representative, vice principal, president, corporate officer, manager, and/or employee of Defendant Estes Express Lines and was acting within the course and scope of her authority as such at the time of the incident. Therefore, the doctrine of *respondeat superior* should be applied to Defendant Estes Express Lines and they should be held vicariously responsible for the acts and omissions of their agent and/or employee and/or servant and/or corporate officer and/or manager and/or vice principal, Defendant Regan.

Alternatively and in addition, Defendant Estes Express Lines is vicariously liable, as a matter of law, for the acts and omissions of its driver, Defendant Regan, as listed above, pursuant to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations because Defendant is an interstate and/or intrastate motor carrier, and their driver injured Plaintiffs through negligence while operating an interstate and/or intrastate motor carrier vehicle. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, which were also adopted by Texas, mandate that Defendant is liable for violations of the federal regulations by its driver because the duties imposed therein are nondelegable. Accordingly, Defendant Regan was also a statutory employee of Defendant at the time of the incident because she was engaged in the performance of nondelegable and absolute duties, as listed above, of Defendant Estes Express Lines.

VII. NEGLIGENT HIRING, TRAINING, RETENTION & SUPERVISION

- 7.1 Alternatively, and in addition, Defendant Estes Express Lines negligently hired, supervised, trained, and retained Defendant Regan, who negligently struck and injured Plaintiffs and caused consequential damages to Plaintiff Connell West's property and business.
- As an employer, Defendant Estes Express Lines owed a duty to Plaintiffs and the general public to hire, supervise, train, and retain a competent and professional commercial driver, including Defendant Regan. Defendant Estes Express Lines owed said duty to supervise and train Defendant Regan and to ensure that the public would be safe while she operated commercial vehicles on behalf of Defendant. Based on information and belief, Defendant Estes Express Lines breached said duties and negligently permitted and/or encouraged its driver to negligently operate Defendant's commercial vehicle.

¹ 49 C.F.R. § 390.11 (2009).

7.3 Additionally, in the absence of Defendant's negligence, the incident would not have occurred. Defendant's breach of said duties was, singularly or in combination with others, the producing and/or proximate cause of the incident and Plaintiffs' damages pled herein.

VIII. NEGLIGENT ENTRUSTMENT

8.1 Defendant Estes Express Lines is also liable for negligent entrustment of a motor vehicle to its driver, Defendant Regan, that forms the basis of this suit. Defendant Estes Express Lines may be held liable for negligent entrustment because (1) Defendant was the owner of the subject 18-wheeler; (2) Defendant entrusted the vehicle to Defendant Regan; (3) Defendant's employee driver was an incompetent and reckless driver; (4) Defendant knew or should have known Defendant Regan was an incompetent and reckless driver; (5) Defendant's driver was negligent on the occasion in question; and (6) the driver's negligence proximately caused Plaintiffs' damages.

IX. GROSS NEGLIGENCE

- 9.1 Defendants acts or omissions described above, when viewed from the standpoint of Defendants at the time of the act or omission, involved an extreme degree of risk, considering the probability and magnitude of the potential harm to Plaintiffs and others. Defendants had actual, subjective awareness of the risk involved in the above-described acts or omissions, but nevertheless proceeded with conscious indifference to the rights, safety, or welfare of Plaintiffs and others.
- 9.2 Based on the facts stated herein, Plaintiffs request exemplary damages be awarded to Plaintiffs from Defendants.

X. DAMAGES

- 10.1 As a result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs suffered serious injuries.

 Plaintiffs brings this action for the following damages:
 - a) Medical, hospital, and pharmaceutical charges and expenses in the past;
 - b) Medical, hospital, and pharmaceutical charges and expenses that, in reasonable medical probability, will be incurred in the future;
 - c) Physical pain and suffering in the past;
 - d) Physical pain and suffering that, in reasonable probability, will be suffered in the future;
 - e) Mental anguish suffered in the past;
 - f) Mental anguish that, in reasonable probability, will be suffered in the future;
 - g) Disability and impairment in the past;
 - h) Disability and impairment that, in reasonable probability, will occur in the future;
 - i) Disfigurement in the past;
 - i) Disfigurement that, in reasonable probability, will occur in the future;
 - k) Lost wages in the past;
 - 1) Loss of earning capacity in the future;
 - m) Loss of use of the subject vehicle and trailers damaged in the incident in the past;
 - n) Property damage sustained in the past;
 - o) Other pecuniary losses suffered in the past as a consequence of the subject collision;
 - p) Exemplary damages; and

- q) Judgment for all other relief to which Plaintiff deems she is entitled.
- Based on the above-enumerated injuries and damages which were caused by the acts and/or omissions of Defendants, Plaintiffs seek both prejudgment and post-judgment interest as allowed by law, for all costs of court, actual damages, exemplary damages, compensatory damages, and all other relief, both in law and in equity, to which Plaintiffs may be entitled.

XI. PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

- 11.1 The Plaintiffs previously and hereby request and demand that Defendants preserve and maintain all evidence pertaining to any claim or defense related to the incident made the basis of this lawsuit, or the damages resulting therefrom, including: photographs, videotapes, audiotapes, recordings, medical records, bills, estimates, invoices, checks, measurements, equipment, inspections of the scene, complaints, maintenance records, repair estimates, records, and bills; correspondence, memoranda, files, facsimiles, emails, dispatcher transmissions, GPS data, 911 communications, voice mail, text messages, any items which were removed from the vehicle after the accident, investigations, cellular telephone records, calendar entries, diary entries, log books, insurance policies, witness statements; and any electronic image, data, or information related to the referenced incident or the Plaintiffs.
 - 11.2 Failure to maintain such items will constitute "spoliation" of the evidence.

XII. NOTICE OF AUTHENTICATION OF DOCUMENTS

12.1 The Plaintiffs hereby provide actual notice to the Defendants that the Plaintiffs will use any or every document produced by the Defendants in response to written discovery in a pretrial proceeding or at trial. Pursuant to TEX. R. CIV. P. 193.7, the Defendants' production of a document in response to written discovery authenticates the document for use against the

Defendants unless - within 10 days or longer or shorter time ordered by the Court - the Defendants object to the authenticity of the document, or any part of it, stating the specific basis for the objections. An objection must be either on the record or in writing and must have a good faith factual and legal basis. An objection made to the authenticity of only part of a document does not affect the authenticity of the remainder.

ХШ. REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

13.1 Pursuant to Rule 194, the Defendants are requested to disclose, within fifty (50) days of service of this request, the information or material described in Rule 194.2.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiffs request that Defendants be cited to appear and answer herein, and that upon a final hearing hereof, Plaintiffs have judgment against Defendants for actual damages in an amount the jury deems reasonable under the circumstances, which are in excess of the minimum jurisdictional limits of the Court, together with pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, exemplary damages, costs of court, and for such other and further relief to which Plaintiffs may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

ABRAHAM, WATKINS, NICHOLS, SORRELS, AGOSTO, AZIZ & STOGNER

By: Jonathan D. Sneed

> BRANT J. STOGNER State Bar No. 24038389 bstogner@awtxlaw.com JONATHAN D. SNEED State Bar No. 24085594 isneed@awtxlaw.com 800 Commerce Street

Houston, Texas 77002-1776

Telephone: (713) 222-7211 Facsimile: (713) 225-0827

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this October 21, 2020

Certified Document Number: 92339878 Total Pages: 12

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

In accordance with Texas Government Code 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail support@hcdistrictclerk.com

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CAUSE NO. 202060502

Marilyn Burgess - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 46741946

Envelope No. 46741946 By: F Abdul-Bari Filed: 10/1/2020 10:17 AM

COPY OF PLEADING PROVIDED BY PLT

RECEIPT NO: 867233 TRACKING NO: 73793143

EML

Plaintiff: CONNELL WEST TRUCKING CO INC

vs.

Defendant:

ESTES EXPRESS LINES

In The 215th

Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas 201 CAROLINE Houston, Texas

CITATION CORPORATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

To: ESTES EXPRESS LINES (A FOREIGN FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION) MAY BE SERVED WITH PROCESS BY SERVING ITS REGISTERED AGENT CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY DBA CSC-LAWYERS INCORPORATING SERVICE COMPANY 211 E 7TH STREET SUITE 620, AUSTIN TX 78701

Attached is a copy of: PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

This instrument was filed on September 25, 2020 in the above cited cause number and court. The instrument attached describes the claim against you.

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the District Clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration date of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

This citation was issued on September 28, 2020, under my hand and seal of said court.

Issued at the request of:

SNEED, JONATHAN DAVID 800 COMMERCE STREET HOUSTON, TX 77002-1776 713-222-7211

Bar Number: 24085594



Marilyn Burgess

Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk

Harris County, Texas 201 CAROLINE Houston Texas 77002 (PO Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210)

Generated By: JOSHUA HALL

Affidavit Attached

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

State of Texas

County of Harris

215th Judicial District Court

Case Number: 202060502

Plaintiff:

Connell West Trucking Co, Inc.

VS.

Defendant:

Estes Express Lines

For:

Jonathan Sneed 800 Commerce Street Houston, TX 77002

Received by Infinity Reporting Group, LLC on the 28th day of September, 2020 at 11:45 am to be served on **Estes Express** Lines, 211 E 7th Street, Suite 620, Austin, TX 78701.

I, Chris Dathe, being duly sworn, depose and say that on the 28th day of September, 2020 at 1:06 pm, I:

served a CORPORATION by delivering a true copy of the Citation, Plaintiffs' Original Petition and Request for Disclosure with the date of service endorsed thereon by me, to: John Spidel as Intake Agent for Corporation Service Company who is the Registered Agent for Estes Express Lines, at the address of: 211 E 7th Street, Suite 620, Austin, TX 78701, and informed said person of the contents therein, in compliance with state statutes.

I certify that I am over the age of 18, have no interest in the above action, and am a Certified Process Server, in good standing, in the judicial circuit in which the process was served.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me on the 30th day of 50 tember, 2020 by the affiant who is personally known to me.

NOTARY PUBLIC

CECILIA DATHE
ID #129576644
My Commission Expires
September 29, 2021

Chris Dathe PSC 6008, Exp. 12-31-20

Infinity Reporting Group, LLC 11200 Richmond Avenue Suite 410 Houston, TX 77082 (832) 930-4484

Our Job Serial Number: MCI-2020001465



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this October 21, 2020

Certified Document Number: 92412100 Total Pages: 2

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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By: F Abdul-Bari Filed: 10/15/2020 5:16 PM

CAUSE NO. 2020-60502

| CONNELL WEST TRUCKING CO., | § | IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| INC., FIDADELFO JUAREZ and | § | |
| GUCHARAN SINGH, | § | |
| | § | |
| Plaintiffs, | § | |
| | § | |
| v. | § | HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS |
| | § | |
| ESTES EXPRESS LINES and | § | |
| CAROLYN DRIGGARS as | § | |
| Representative of the Estate of | § | |
| DEBORAH REGAN, | § | |
| | § | |
| Defendants. | § | 215^{TH} JUDICIAL DISTRICT |

DEFENDANT'S, ESTES EXPRESS LINES, MOTION TO TRANSFER VENUE

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Defendant, Estes Express Lines, ("Estes Express"), and files its Motion to Transfer Venue pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 86, respectfully showing the following:

I. Procedural and Factual Background.

On September 25, 2020, the Plaintiffs, Connell West Trucking Co. Inc. ("CWT"), Fidadelfo Juarez ("Juarez") and Gucharan Singh ("Singh") (CWT, Juarez and Singh are collectively referred to as the "Plaintiffs"), filed their Original Petition in Harris County, Texas. *See* Ex. A, Pls.' Orig. Pet. dated Sept. 25, 2020.

Plaintiffs allege in their Original Petition (the "Petition") that their suit arises from a motor vehicle accident (the "Subject Accident") that occurred on the eastbound lane of Interstate-10 ("I-10") near the Sierra Blanca Border Patrol Checkpoint on Friday, September 27, 2019. *See* Ex. A, ¶¶ 4.1-4.2. The Petition also alleges that the Subject Accident was caused by Deborah Regan (Co-Defendant Regan) who was operating a commercial vehicle on behalf of Estes Express. *Id.* at ¶ 4.2.

The Subject Accident occurred in Hudspeth County, Texas as shown by the police report. *See* Ex. B, Police Report. Since the Subject Accident occurred in Hudspeth County, Texas, all of the factual allegations related to the Subject Accident occurred in Hudspeth County, Texas.

Plaintiffs' only basis for venue in Harris County, Texas is based on the allegation that Estes Express has its principle office in Harris County, Texas. Pls.' Orig. Pet. at 1.

Estes Express now files its Motion to Transfer Venue.

II. Legal Standard for Motion to Transfer Venue

A defendant can raise "the question of proper venue by objecting to a plaintiff's venue choice through a motion to transfer venue." *Wichita Cnty, Tex. v. Hart*, 917 S.W.2d 779, 781 (Tex. 1996) (citing Tex. R. Civ. P. 86). "If there is any probative evidence that venue was proper in the county to which transfer was sought," the Court must transfer venue to that county. *Ruiz v. Conoco, Inc.*, 868 S.W.2d 752, 758 (Tex. 1993).

III. Analysis

A. Legal Authority

Venue may be proper in more than one county and the plaintiff gets the first choice to fix venue by filing suit. *In re Team Rocket*, *L.P.*, 256 S.W.3d 257, 259 (Tex. 2008) (orig. proceeding); *In re Masonite Corp.*, 997 S.W.2d 194, 197 (Tex. 1999) (orig. proceeding). However, if a plaintiff files suit in a county which is an improper venue, plaintiff waives her choice of venue and the defendant may have the suit transferred to another county as long as venue is proper in that county. Tex. Civ. P. & Rem. Code § 15.002(a)(1)-(4); *In re Mo. Pac. Ry. Co.*, 998 S.W.2d 212, 216 (Tex. 1999).

Pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code ("CPRC") section 15.002, "all lawsuits shall be brought":

- (1) in the county in which all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred;
- (2) in the county of defendant's residence at the time the cause of action accrued if defendant is a natural person; or
- (3) in the county of the defendant's principal office in this state, if the defendant is not a natural person, or
- (4) if Subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) do not apply, in the county in which the plaintiff resided at the time of the accrual of the cause of action.

Tex. Civ. P. & Rem. Code § 15.002(a)(1)-(4).

B. Venue is improper in Harris County, Texas because Estes Express does not maintain a principle office in Harris County.

Plaintiffs filed suit in Harris County, Texas based on the allegation that Estes Express maintains a principle office in Harris County located at 7345 Roundhouse Lane, Houston, Texas 77078. *See* Ex. A, ¶ 3.2. Estes Express disputes it maintains a principle office in Harris County, Texas; therefore, Estes Express objects to Harris County on the grounds it is an improper venue.

Principle office is defined as an office of a corporation "in which the decision makers for the organization within this state conduct the daily affairs of the organization." Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 15.001(a). "Decision makers' are not mere agents or representatives of a business entity, but the individuals with authority to control and direct the daily affairs of the entity." *In re Mo. Pac. Ry. Co.*, 998 S.W.2d at 217. The daily affairs of a company do not imply or mean "relatively common, low-level managerial decisions." *Id.* And as noted by the venue statute itself, "[t]he mere presence of an agency or representative does not establish a principle office. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 15.001(a).

Here, the principle corporate office for Estes Express is not located in Harris County, Texas. *See* Ex. C, Beacham Decl., ¶¶ 2, 4. While Estes Express maintains a terminal at 7345 Roundhouse Lane, Houston, Texas 77078, that terminal is not Estes Express's principle office. *Id.*

The terminal manager has some authority to make decisions for the operation of the terminal, but the terminal and its managerial employees are under the control of and subordinate to Estes Express's high-level officers located in Richmond, Virginia. *Id.* at \P 2. The terminal in Harris County, Texas does not have any of the high-level officers having the authority to control and direct the daily affairs of Estes Express. *Id.* at \P 2, 4.

Rather, Estes Express's principle offices are located in Richmond, Virginia where the individuals having the authority to control and effect the daily affairs of Estes Express are located. *Id.* at ¶ 3. Such individuals include the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Vice-President, Treasurer, and several directors of Estes Express among other high-level officers. *Id.* All business decisions effecting the daily operations of Estes Express are made by the high-level officers located at its corporate and principle offices in Richmond, Virginia. *Id.*

C. Venue is proper in Hudspeth County, Texas, because the Subject Accident occurred in Hudspeth County.

The Plaintiffs improperly filed suit in Harris County, because Estes Express's principle office is not located in Harris County. *Id.* The Plaintiffs chose not to file suit in Hudspeth County which is the county where all or substantial parts of the Subject Accident occurred. *See* Ex. B, Police Report. Section 15.002(a)(1) applies in this case because all of the Plaintiffs' factual allegations regarding the Subject Accident occurred in Hudspeth County. *Id.* Thus, this Court should grant Estes Express's Motion to Transfer Venue because it has shown that Hudspeth County, and not Harris County, is a proper venue for this suit. *In re Mo. Pac. Ry. Co.*, 998 S.W.2d 212, 217 (Tex. 1999) (Concluding trial court abused discretion by not transferring suit to county where Union Pacific Railroad maintained its principle office in Texas).

In further support that venue is proper in Hudspeth County, Texas under 15.002(a)(1), Estes Express pleads in accordance with Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 87, that if a claim and/or

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causes of action exists, then the causes of action accrued in Hudspeth County, Texas which is the specific county where the Subject Accident occurred and to which transfer is sought. Tex. R. Civ. P. 87(b).

IV. Prayer

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant, Estes Express Lines, moves this Honorable Court to grant its Motion to Transfer Venue, transfer the instant cause to Hudspeth County, Texas, the proper venue in this case, and for any and all other relief to which Defendant may be justly entitled to.

Respectfully submitted,

RINCON LAW GROUP, P.C. 1014 North Mesa Street, Suite 200 El Paso, Texas 79902 (915) 532-6800 (Telephone) (915) 532-6808 (Facsimile)

By: <u>/s/ Sergio E. Chavez</u>

CARLOS RINCON

State Bar No. 16932700

E-mail: CRincon@rinconlawgroup.com

SERGIO E. CHAVEZ State Bar No. 24031939

E-mail: SChavez@rinconlawgroup.com

Attorneys for Estes Express Lines

Certified Document Number: 92653003 - Page 6 of 6

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served as follows on the parties through their counsel of record on this 15^{th} day of October 2020.

| Brant J. Stogner | \boxtimes | Via Electronic Service |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Jonathan D. Sneed | | Via Facsimile Transmission |
| ABRAHAM, WATKINS, NICHOLS, SORRELS, | \boxtimes | Via E-Mail |
| AGOSTO, AZIZ & STOGNER | | Via Certified Mail, RRR |
| 800 Commerce St. | _ | |
| Houston, Texas 77002-1776 | Ш | Via USPS First Class |
| (713) 222-7211 (Telephone) | | Via Hand Delivery |
| (713) 225-0827 (Facsimile) | | Via Commercial Delivery Service |
| bstogner@awtxlaw.com | | |
| jsneed@awtxlaw.com | | |
| Attorneys for Plaintiffs | | |
| | /s/ Sergio E. | Chavez |
| | SERGIO E. O | |
| | DELICIO E. | |



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this October 21, 2020

Certified Document Number: 92653003 Total Pages: 6

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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EXHIBIT A

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CAUSE NO.

Defendants.

Marilyn Burgess - District Clerk Harris County Envelope No. 46593336

JUDICIAL DISTRICT

By: Joshua Hall Filed: 9/25/2020 4:09 PM

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| CONNELL WEST TRUCKING (| CO. INC., § | IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF |
| FIDADELFO JUAREZ, and | § | |
| GUCHARAN SINGH | § | |
| Plaintiffs, | § | |
| | § | |
| v. | § | HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS |
| | § | |
| ESTES EXPRESS LINES and CA | ROLYN § | |
| DRIGGARS, as Representative of | the Estate § | |
| of DEBORAH REGAN | § | |
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PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION AND REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

Plaintiffs CONNELL WEST TRUCKING CO. INC., FIDADELFO JUAREZ, and GUCHARAN SINGH ("Plaintiffs") file this Original Petition, complaining of Defendants ESTES EXPRESS LINES and CAROLYN DRIGGARS, as Representative of the Estate of DEBORAH REGAN, deceased (collectively "Defendants"), and in support of the same would respectfully show the following:

I. <u>Discovery Control Plan</u>

1.1 Plaintiffs intend that discovery be conducted under Level 3 and affirmatively plead that they seek monetary relief over \$1,000,000.00 at this time. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend this damage calculation as discovery progresses. Plaintiffs make this damage calculation at this time pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 47.

II. PARTIES

2.1 Plaintiff Connell West Trucking Co. Inc. is a corporation organized in California and authorized to conduct business in the State of Texas.

- 2.2 Defendant Estes Express Lines is a foreign for-profit corporation doing a substantial amount of business in Texas. Defendant may be served with process by serving its registered agent, Corporation Service Company d/b/a CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service Company, 211 E. 7th Street, Suite 620, Austin, Texas 78701.
- 2.3 Defendant Carolyn Driggars is a Texas resident and the surviving natural mother and heir of decedent Deborah Regan. Defendant Carolyn Driggars may be served with process at her residence located at 11616 White Leaf Court W., Fort Worth, Texas 76135 or wherever she may be found.

III. JURISDICTION & VENUE

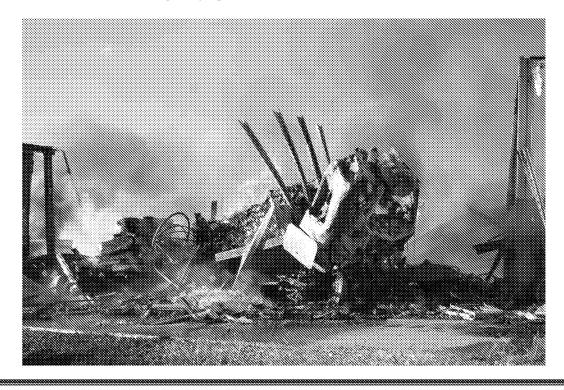
- 3.1 This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this lawsuit and the amount of controversy is above the minimum jurisdictional limits of this Honorable Court.
- 3.2 Venue is proper in Harris County pursuant to TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. §15.002(a)(3) because Defendant Estes Express Lines maintains its principal office at 7345 Roundhouse Lane, Houston, Texas 77078, which is located in Harris County.
- 3.3 The federal courts lack jurisdiction over this suit. Plaintiffs' claims raise no federal question, nor do they seek relief under a federal law, statute, regulation, treaty, or the Constitution. Accordingly, Plaintiffs' right to relief does not depend on the resolution of a substantial question of federal law. Further, this lawsuit cannot be removed because there is no diversity, as one of the Defendants is a Texas resident. Therefore, removal would be improper.

IV. FACTS

4.1 On or about Friday, September 27, 2019 at approximately 4:50 p.m., Plaintiffs were operating an 18-wheeler and hauling two trailers of cargo when they were involved in a

major interstate trucking collision near mile marker 102 on eastbound I-10. Plaintiff Connell West Trucking Co. Inc. ("Connell West") is a freight company based in California that ships goods and packages throughout the country. At the time of the incident, Plaintiffs Fidadelfo Juarez and Gucharan Singh were jointly hauling two trailers loaded with cargo from Connell West's headquarters in California to Houston, Texas.

4.2 Mr. Singh was operating the tractor truck while Mr. Juarez was off duty in the sleeper berth as they were approaching the Sierra Blanca Border Patrol Checkpoint in the right eastbound lane of I-10. Traffic was slowed due to the checkpoint and Plaintiff Singh was traveling approximately 10-15 miles per hour in accordance with the slow-moving traffic in front of him. At this same time, decedent Deborah Regan was operating an 18-wheeler also hauling two loaded trailers of cargo on behalf of Defendant Estes Express Lines and heading for Dallas, Texas. Suddenly and without warning, Regan failed to control her speed and crashed into the rear of Plaintiffs' vehicle at highway speed.





- 4.3 The force of the impact caused the cab of Defendant's vehicle to become completely flattened and engulfed in flames. The fire also incinerated the trailer Defendant was hauling immediately behind its cab, as well as Plaintiff's trailer that was directly impacted by the crash. Immediately following the collision, Plaintiff's, dazed and injured, went to the Estes Express Lines cab and attempted to pull Defendant Regan and her passenger from the burning vehicle. Plaintiffs were unable to remove the occupants from the Estes Express Lines 18-wheeler and Deborah Regan, as well as her passenger, Terry Huey, were both killed as a result of the force of impact and the fire that subsequently consumed their vehicle.
- 4.4 The Texas Highway Patrol conducted a "Major Crash Investigation" into the subject collision and found no evidence that Estes Express Lines driver Deborah Regan ever applied the brakes before colliding into the rear of Plaintiffs' vehicle and trailers. According to

Defendant's electronic GPS tracking logs, Regan's last known speed just before the crash was sixty-seven (67) miles per hour. Investigators were never able to identify any reason for Regan's failure to control her speed and concluded that her failure was the sole cause of the subject crash.

4.5 Plaintiffs Juarez and Singh suffered incapacitating injuries and Plaintiff Connell West sustained substantial property and business-related losses as a result of the high speed crash and destruction of their freight trailer.

V. NEGLIGENCE AND NEGLIGENCE PER SE

- 5.1 Defendants had a duty to exercise the degree of care that a reasonably prudent person driving a commercial vehicle would use to avoid harm to others under circumstances similar to those described herein.
- 5.2 Plaintiffs' injuries and damages were proximately caused by Defendants' negligent, careless, and reckless disregard of said duty.
- 5.3 On the occasion in question, the collision and Plaintiffs' damages were proximately caused by the negligence, carelessness, and recklessness of Defendants in at least one or more of the following, non-exclusive particulars:
 - (1) In failing to control the vehicle, as would have been done by a reasonable person exercising ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances;
 - (2) In failing to timely and properly apply the brakes, as would have been done by a reasonable person exercising ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances;
 - (3) In failing to maintain a proper lookout while operating a motor vehicle, as would have been done by a reasonable person exercising ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances;

- (4) In failing to take proper evasive action to avoid an impending collision, as would have been done by a reasonable person exercising ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances;
- (5) In engaging in distracted driving and/or operating a cell phone while driving, as would not have been done by a reasonable person exercising ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances;
- (6) In failing to reasonably and appropriately maintain the vehicle in good working order before operating it on public roadways; and
- (7) In driving the vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons, in violation of TEX. TRANS. CODE § 545.401, which also constitutes negligence per se.
- 5.4 Each and all of the above and foregoing acts, both of omission and commission, singularly or in combination with others, constituted negligence and negligence per se, which proximately caused the occurrence made the basis of this suit, and Plaintiffs' injuries and damages pled herein.

VI. VICARIOUS LIABILITY

6.1 Plaintiffs plead that at the time of the occurrence made the basis of this suit and all other times material herein, Defendant Regan was acting in her capacity as an agent, servant, representative, vice principal, president, corporate officer, manager, and/or employee of Defendant Estes Express Lines and was acting within the course and scope of her authority as such at the time of the incident. Therefore, the doctrine of *respondeat superior* should be applied to Defendant Estes Express Lines and they should be held vicariously responsible for the acts and omissions of their agent and/or employee and/or servant and/or corporate officer and/or manager and/or vice principal, Defendant Regan.

Alternatively and in addition, Defendant Estes Express Lines is vicariously liable, as a matter of law, for the acts and omissions of its driver, Defendant Regan, as listed above, pursuant to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations because Defendant is an interstate and/or intrastate motor carrier, and their driver injured Plaintiffs through negligence while operating an interstate and/or intrastate motor carrier vehicle. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, which were also adopted by Texas, mandate that Defendant is liable for violations of the federal regulations by its driver because the duties imposed therein are nondelegable. Accordingly, Defendant Regan was also a statutory employee of Defendant at the time of the incident because she was engaged in the performance of nondelegable and absolute duties, as listed above, of Defendant Estes Express Lines.

VII. NEGLIGENT HIRING, TRAINING, RETENTION & SUPERVISION

- 7.1 Alternatively, and in addition, Defendant Estes Express Lines negligently hired, supervised, trained, and retained Defendant Regan, who negligently struck and injured Plaintiffs and caused consequential damages to Plaintiff Connell West's property and business.
- As an employer, Defendant Estes Express Lines owed a duty to Plaintiffs and the general public to hire, supervise, train, and retain a competent and professional commercial driver, including Defendant Regan. Defendant Estes Express Lines owed said duty to supervise and train Defendant Regan and to ensure that the public would be safe while she operated commercial vehicles on behalf of Defendant. Based on information and belief, Defendant Estes Express Lines breached said duties and negligently permitted and/or encouraged its driver to negligently operate Defendant's commercial vehicle.

¹ 49 C.F.R. § 390.11 (2009).

7.3 Additionally, in the absence of Defendant's negligence, the incident would not have occurred. Defendant's breach of said duties was, singularly or in combination with others, the producing and/or proximate cause of the incident and Plaintiffs' damages pled herein.

VIII. NEGLIGENT ENTRUSTMENT

8.1 Defendant Estes Express Lines is also liable for negligent entrustment of a motor vehicle to its driver, Defendant Regan, that forms the basis of this suit. Defendant Estes Express Lines may be held liable for negligent entrustment because (1) Defendant was the owner of the subject 18-wheeler; (2) Defendant entrusted the vehicle to Defendant Regan; (3) Defendant's employee driver was an incompetent and reckless driver; (4) Defendant knew or should have known Defendant Regan was an incompetent and reckless driver; (5) Defendant's driver was negligent on the occasion in question; and (6) the driver's negligence proximately caused Plaintiffs' damages.

IX. GROSS NEGLIGENCE

- 9.1 Defendants acts or omissions described above, when viewed from the standpoint of Defendants at the time of the act or omission, involved an extreme degree of risk, considering the probability and magnitude of the potential harm to Plaintiffs and others. Defendants had actual, subjective awareness of the risk involved in the above-described acts or omissions, but nevertheless proceeded with conscious indifference to the rights, safety, or welfare of Plaintiffs and others.
- 9.2 Based on the facts stated herein, Plaintiffs request exemplary damages be awarded to Plaintiffs from Defendants.

X. DAMAGES

- 10.1 As a result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiffs suffered serious injuries.

 Plaintiffs brings this action for the following damages:
 - a) Medical, hospital, and pharmaceutical charges and expenses in the past;
 - b) Medical, hospital, and pharmaceutical charges and expenses that, in reasonable medical probability, will be incurred in the future;
 - c) Physical pain and suffering in the past;
 - d) Physical pain and suffering that, in reasonable probability, will be suffered in the future;
 - e) Mental anguish suffered in the past;
 - f) Mental anguish that, in reasonable probability, will be suffered in the future;
 - g) Disability and impairment in the past;
 - h) Disability and impairment that, in reasonable probability, will occur in the future;
 - i) Disfigurement in the past;
 - i) Disfigurement that, in reasonable probability, will occur in the future;
 - k) Lost wages in the past;
 - 1) Loss of earning capacity in the future;
 - m) Loss of use of the subject vehicle and trailers damaged in the incident in the past;
 - n) Property damage sustained in the past;
 - o) Other pecuniary losses suffered in the past as a consequence of the subject collision;
 - p) Exemplary damages; and

- q) Judgment for all other relief to which Plaintiff deems she is entitled.
- Based on the above-enumerated injuries and damages which were caused by the acts and/or omissions of Defendants, Plaintiffs seek both prejudgment and post-judgment interest as allowed by law, for all costs of court, actual damages, exemplary damages, compensatory damages, and all other relief, both in law and in equity, to which Plaintiffs may be entitled.

XI. PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

- 11.1 The Plaintiffs previously and hereby request and demand that Defendants preserve and maintain all evidence pertaining to any claim or defense related to the incident made the basis of this lawsuit, or the damages resulting therefrom, including: photographs, videotapes, audiotapes, recordings, medical records, bills, estimates, invoices, checks, measurements, equipment, inspections of the scene, complaints, maintenance records, repair estimates, records, and bills; correspondence, memoranda, files, facsimiles, emails, dispatcher transmissions, GPS data, 911 communications, voice mail, text messages, any items which were removed from the vehicle after the accident, investigations, cellular telephone records, calendar entries, diary entries, log books, insurance policies, witness statements; and any electronic image, data, or information related to the referenced incident or the Plaintiffs.
 - 11.2 Failure to maintain such items will constitute "spoliation" of the evidence.

XII. NOTICE OF AUTHENTICATION OF DOCUMENTS

12.1 The Plaintiffs hereby provide actual notice to the Defendants that the Plaintiffs will use any or every document produced by the Defendants in response to written discovery in a pretrial proceeding or at trial. Pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 193.7, the Defendants' production of a document in response to written discovery authenticates the document for use against the

Defendants unless - within 10 days or longer or shorter time ordered by the Court - the Defendants object to the authenticity of the document, or any part of it, stating the specific basis for the objections. An objection must be either on the record or in writing and must have a good faith factual and legal basis. An objection made to the authenticity of only part of a document does not affect the authenticity of the remainder.

ХШ. REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

13.1 Pursuant to Rule 194, the Defendants are requested to disclose, within fifty (50) days of service of this request, the information or material described in Rule 194.2.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiffs request that Defendants be cited to appear and answer herein, and that upon a final hearing hereof, Plaintiffs have judgment against Defendants for actual damages in an amount the jury deems reasonable under the circumstances, which are in excess of the minimum jurisdictional limits of the Court, together with pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, exemplary damages, costs of court, and for such other and further relief to which Plaintiffs may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

ABRAHAM, WATKINS, NICHOLS, SORRELS, AGOSTO, AZIZ & STOGNER

By: Jonathan D. Sneed

> BRANT J. STOGNER State Bar No. 24038389 bstogner@awtxlaw.com JONATHAN D. SNEED State Bar No. 24085594 isneed@awtxlaw.com 800 Commerce Street

Telephone: (713) 222-7211 Facsimile: (713) 225-0827

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS



Certified Document Number: 92653004 Total Pages: 13

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Certified Document Number: 92653005 - Page 1 of 8

EXHIBIT B



125 EAST 11TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 | 512.463.8588 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

Wed, 30 September 2020

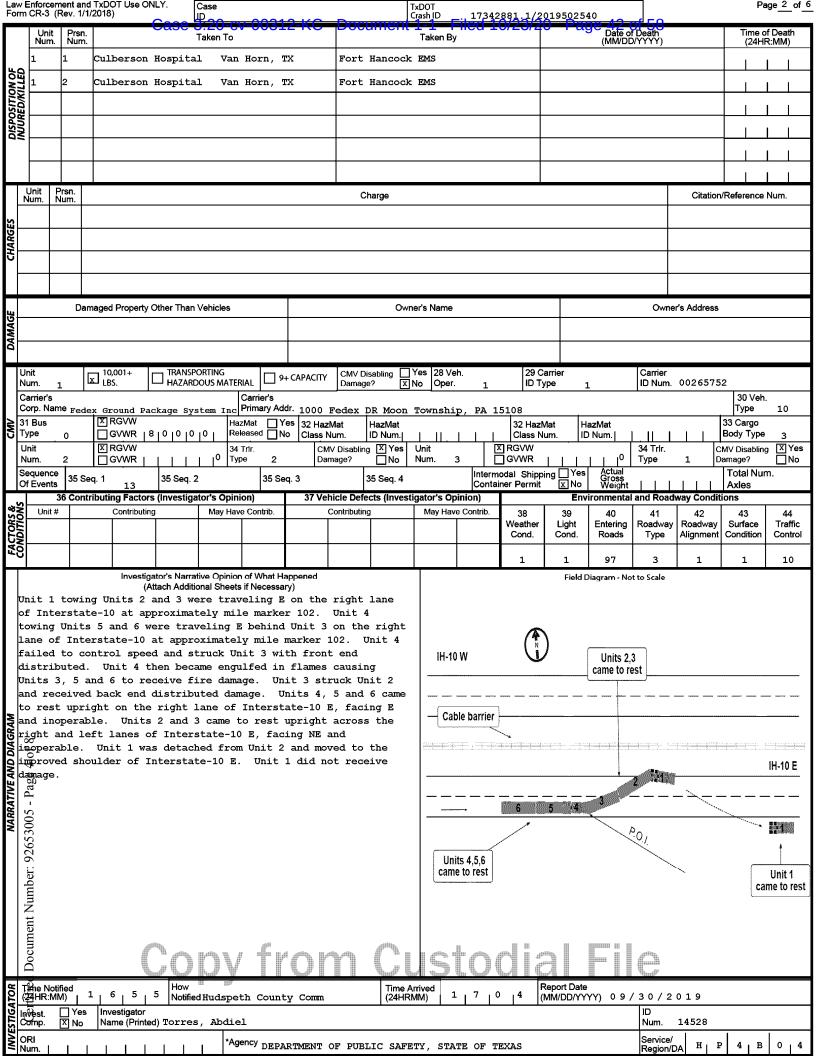
STATE OF TEXAS §

This is to certify that I, Jim Hollis, am employed by the Texas Department of Transportation (Department); that I am the Custodian of Motor Vehicle Crash Records for such Department; that the attached is a true and correct copy of the peace officer's report filed with the Department referred to in the attached request with the crash date of Fri, 27 September 2019, which occurred in Hudspeth County; that the investigations of motor vehicle crashes by peace officers are authorized by law; that this Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report is required by law to be completed and filed with this Department; that this report sets forth matters observed pursuant to duty imposed by law as to which matters there was a duty to report, or factual findings resulting from an investigation made pursuant to authority granted by law.

Jim Hollis
Director, Crash Data & Analysis Section
125 East 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2483
1-844-274-7457



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| ĬQ | | Yes | _ | dwy. | Hv | wy. um. | | 2. Rdwy. | Ві | lock lum. | | 3 Stre | eet | | Street | | | | | | | | 4 Stre | | | |
| | Distan | nce from | m Int. | 0.2 | <u> </u> | FT 3 | 3 Dir. from or Ref. Ma | n Int. | | Reference Marker 1 | | s | Street Desc. | | 1100 | | | | | | RRX | | | | _ | $\overline{}$ |
| H | Unit | | 5 U | Jnit | Pa | arked _F | — Hit and | d LP | - | LP | 102 | | | | | | | | | Į N | lum. | | | | | |
| | Num. Veh. | 3 | De | | 6. Veh. | ehide L | Run | State Ut | Ŋ | Num. | | | VIN Veh. | | | | | | 7 Box | • | Ш | — | Pol | I., Fire, El | MS on y (Explai | |
| | Year 8 DL/II | L D | | DL/ID | Color WH | HI DL/ID | | Make UNI | KNOWN | 9 DL | | 10 CD | Model $_{\overline{U}}$ | NKNOW | 7N 11 DL | | | ПО | Style B | TL | | | Nar | rative if | f checke | d) |
| | Туре | ss (Str | | State | | Num. | | | | Class | | End. | | | Rest. | | | | M/DD/Y` | YYY) [| | ⊥ ′∟ | | Ш | — | |
| | City, S | State, Z | ZIP) | | | | | | | | | | Т ъ. | | | | Г., Т | | | | | | | <u> </u> | | - 2 |
| SONS | Person Num. | 12 Prsn. Type | 13 Seat Position | 1 | Ent | ter Drive | | e: Last, First, ary Person f | - | it on first l | line | | 14 Injury | Age | 15 Ethnicity | 6 Sex | 17 Eject. | 18 Restr. |) irbag | 20 Helmet | 21 Sol. | 22 Alc. Spec. | Alc. Result | 23 Drug Spec. | 24 Drug Result | 25 Drug Category |
| & PE | عق | 17 | ا م | | | | | | | | | | 1-0 | \ | <u>~ ~ ~</u> | 16: | + | 1 | 15 A | ×π | 7 | 25.2 | ĀĞ | \$ 22 | 74 | 200 |
| VEHICLE, DRIVER, & PERSONS | | | \Box | <u> </u> | | | | | | | | | + | + | + | | | | | $ \cdot $ | | No | t Applical | اA - ماما | ـــــــا ن اماد-' | |
| .TE, DI | | | $\overline{}$ | | | | | | | | | | \top | 1 | | | | | | | | Drug | g Results Driver/Pr | are onl rimary l | ly repor Person | rted |
| VEHIC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ch Unit | | |
| | □ 0\ ⊠ Le | | | ner/Lessee me & Addre | | x Grou | nd Pac | kage Sys | stem Inc | 2, 1000 | Fede | ex DR Mo | oon To | wnshi | то, Р. | A 151 | 108 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Proof c | of 🏻 ` | Yes | Expired Exempt | 26 Fin. | | | Fin. Resp. | Protecti | | uranc | ce Comr | | in. Res | sp. | 7605 | | | | | | | | , | | |
| | Fin. Re | esp. | | | 1 | | | 27 Vehicle | le | | | | | 27 | Vehicle | | | | - . | | | | | hicle rentorie | ed 🗵 | Yes |
| | Towed | d | | 7) 636-9 | | | | Damage I | Towed | | <u> </u> | | | | mage R | | 2 | Ш | Ш | | | | 1114- | entone | <u> </u> | No |
| Н | By Unit | A & | 5 U | Jnit | | arked _F | — Hit and | d LP | To 8 | LP LP | | _ | T | TX 7 | | | | | | | | | | | _ | |
| | Num. Veh. | 4 | De | esc. 1 | V _€ 6. ∨eh. | ehicle L | Run | State NO | <u> </u> | Num. NH | 4665 | 1 | VIN Veh. | 1 ³ 1 | н : | S D | 1 ^Z 1 | A | P R | | K | № 5 | Pol. | 7 8 I., Fire, Ei | MS on | 1 |
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| | Type | 2 ess (Stre | | State T | ľX | | 037280 | 21 | | Class A | <u>A</u> | End. | N,T, | <u>H</u> | | P27, | , A | | M/DD/Y^ | J(YYY | 0 6 | 1/12 | 1 / | 11 | 9 5 | 7 |
| | Onniy,s | State, Z | ZIP) 2 | | uit Rid | ge CT | Spring | rtown, TX | 76082 | | | | | | | | | <u> </u> | | | | | | | | |
| VEHICLE, DRIVER, & PERSONS | CAST 1005 | 12 Prsn. Type | Seat | 1 | Ent | ter Drive | | e: Last, First, ary Person f | | it on first l | line | | 14 Injury | , e | 15 Ethnicity | Sex | 17 Eject. | 18 Restr. | rbag | 20 Helmet | 21 Sol. | 22 Alc. Spec. | Alc. Result | 23 Drug Spec. | 24 Drug Result | 25 Drug Category |
| & PER | 926 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | | Regan, | | | | | | | | | K 4 0 | Age 43 | ₩ | 2 | 1 | 99 | o 19 Air | 유포 97 | Z 21 | 96 Sp. 22 | ~ A | 96 Sp | 97 7 & & | ५२ <u>७</u> 97 |
| IVER, | e err: | 2 | | Huey, T | | | gars ——— | | | | | | K | 64 | W | 1 | 1 | 99 | 99 | 97 | N | | | <u> </u> | | ļ |
| LE, DR | Number | | | nuey, 1 | erry r | SYLET | | | | | | | — | - 0-1 | - W | - | | 33 | 99 | 9, | 14 | Drug | t Applical g Results Driver/Pr | are onl | ly repor | rted |
| VEHIC | nent 1 | | \square | | | | | | | | | | + | + | <u> </u> | | | | | | | | | ch Unit | | 10. |
| | Mare Mare | | | ner/Lessee me & Addre | | #\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\ | | | | ₩ | | | - 1.4 | <u> </u> | | amily . | | | | | h, | | | | | |
| | Prodof o | of 🔞 | Yes | Expired | 26 Fin. | | ess Li | Fin. Resp. N | | | | | ance | in. Res | | -(1 | | | | H | # // | | | | | _ |
| | Fig. Re | esp. 🔲 i Resp. | | Exempt | 1 | /pe 2 | | Name C | Company le | | | | | Num. 27 | 774 Vehicle | 12246 | i | | | | | | | hicle | | Yes |
| | Phone | e Num. | (888 | 3) 609-7 | 7046 | | | Damage I | | | | | B | | mage F | | 2 | Ш | | | | | | | ed 🗵 | |
| | ı | | A T | owing (| (915) 3 | 69-414 | 13 | | | 306 E Br | roadw | ay Van | Horn, | TX 7 | 9855 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Law For | Enfor | cemei 3 (Re | nt and v. 1/1/2 | TxDOT Use 2018) | ONLY. | | Case D | 0004 | | | | TxDOT Crash ID | 17342 | 881.1/20 | 195025 | 40 | | | Pa | ge_4_of_6 |
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| | Ur Nu | nit I | Prsn. Num. | | -Ca | ise t | Taken To | /-005 1 | .Z-KU | DOC | инен | Taken By | Hed 1 | 0/25/20 | | Date of (MM/DD | Death | | | f Death R:MM) |
| | 4 | 1 | | Legacy M | ortua | ary Se | ervices | El P | aso, TX | Legac | y Mortu | ary Ser | vices | | | 09/27 | |) | 1 8 | 2 3 |
| DISPOSITION OF | 4 | 2 | | Legacy M | ortua | ary Se | ervices | El Pa | so, TX | Legac | y Mortu | ary Ser | vices | | | 09/27 | /2019 |) | 1 8 | 2 3 |
| 51T/0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
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| CHARGES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| H | | | Dam | aged Proper | ty Othe | r Than \ | /ehicles | | | | Owr | er's Name | | | | | Own | er's Address | | |
| DAMAGE | | | Daiii | aged Froper | ty Other | i iliali | verlicles | | | | OWI | iei s ivairie | | | | | OWI | ei s Addiess | | |
| DAM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | Jnit | | T. | 1 0,001+ |],,,, т | TRANSPO | ORTING | I,-, | | CMV Dis | sabling V | Yes 28 Ve | h. | 29 Ca | arrier | | Carrier | | | |
| اِ ا | Num. Carrier | 4 | lx |] 10,001+ LBS. | الا | HAZARD | OUS MATER | RIAL U 9 | + CAPACITY | Damage | | No Oper. | | ID Ty | | 1 | | 0012101 | 8 30 Veh. | |
| וַן | Corp. I | Name | Este | s Expres | s Lir | nes | | Primary Ac | ldr. 3901 T | | | hmond, | VA 2323 | | | | | | Туре | 10 |
| | 31 Bus Type | i 0 |) | ⊠ RGVW □ GVWR | 1810 | 1010 | | zMat \ \ \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\ | | | HazMat ID Num. | Ι Ш. | | 32 Haziv Class Nu | | lazMat D Num. j | _ 11 1 | | 33 Cargo Body Type | 3 |
| | Unit Num. | 5 | | ⊠ RGVW □ GVWR | 1 1 | 1 1 | 34 0 Typ | Trlr. De 2 | | / Disabling nage? | ∑ Yes □ No | Unit Num. | | RGVW GVWR | | 1 1 10 | 34 Trlr. Type | | MV Disabling amage? | ∑Yes ∐No |
| | Seque Of Eve | | 35 Sec | į. 1 13 | 35 | Seq. 2 | | 35 Se | eq. 3 | 3 | 35 Seq. 4 | | Interm | odal Shippi ner Permit | ng 🗌 Yes 🗓 No | Actual Gross Weight | 1 1 1 | 111 | Total Nun Axles | |
| _ | | 36 | Contri | buting Fact | | vestiga | | | | | | igator's Op | inion) | | Env | /ironmental | | way Condit | ions | |
| ORS A | Ur | nit# | _ | Contribu | iting | | May Hav | e Contrib. | | Contributing |) | May Hav | e Contrib. | 38 Weather | 39 Light | 40 Entering | 41 Roadway | | 43 Surface | 44 Traffic |
| FACTORS& | - | 4 | 2: | 2 | + | | | | | | | | | Cond. | Cond. | Roads | Туре | Alignment | Condition | Control |
| H | 1 | | | Inves | tigator's | s Narrat | ive Opinior | of What H | appened | | | | | | Field | Diagram - No | t to Scale | | | |
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| NARRATIVE AND DIAGRAM | 9 Jc | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | _ | | | | | | $\bigcup V$ | | | | | 15 | | UIÇ | | | | | | |
| TOR | Time I (24HR | Notifie I:MM) | d 1 | 6 5 | | How Notified | Hudspe | th Coun | ty Comm | | Time A (24HR) | rrived MM) 1 | . 1 ⁷ 1 ⁰ | | eport Date //M/DD/YY |) YY) 09/ | 30/2 | 019 | | |
| STIGA | n√est. omp. | X | Yes No | Investigato Name (Prir | or nted) To | orres | , Abdie | 1 | | | | | • | | | | ID Num. | 14528 | | |
| INVESTIGATOR | ORI Num. | | 1 1 | 1 1 | 1 1 | 1 | | | ARTMENT (| F PUBI | IC SAFE | TY, STA | TE OF T | EXAS | | | Service Region/ | <u> </u> | 4 ₁ B | 0 4 |

| | w Enford FATAL | | it and Tx ☑ CMV | XDOT Use | | ₃us_e[| 3RAI | LR OAD | ?-0 0 312 | 2- K € | SUPPLEME | ime | ₽¢ | CTIVE | z enie c | Tot 1 | tal #23/ | /20 | Pa | Tot Nur O ers | al M <mark>1</mark> 155 (| of 158 | - 8 4 | | DOT ash ID | | 42881 19502 | |
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| = | | 4 ° | 9 | | | | | | Texas | s Peace | e Officer | r's Cra | ash l | Report | t (Form | ı CR- | -3 1/1/ | /2018 | 3) | | · | · | | | ~~~ | | | <u>:</u> |
| 4 | Texa Departi | | Mai | | • | • | | | | Refer to | o Attache | ed Cod | de Sh | heet for | r Numb | ered | Fields | ls | | | | | | | | 57 | | |
| _ | | h Date | | <u>"-ı</u> | hese ne | eids an | e req | · I | on all add | litional | Sneets st | | | or trus c | :rasn (e | }X a | aaiiio | nai ve | enicie | _ | • | | ljured | J, etc. |). | Pa | ige_5_ | of <u>6</u> |
| | (MM/E | DD/YY\ | | 0 9 / | 2 7 / | 2 0 1 | Ι9 | | h Time RMM) 1 | 1 6 | ⁵ ⁰ | 0 Cas ID *City | se —— | | | | | | | | Local U | lse —— | | | | _ | Outs | : do |
| } | | HUD | SPETI | | | | | | | | | Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | Outsid City L | |
| CATION | \$1,000 | 0 damaç | age to an | ny one per | result in at | perty? | ∑ Ye | | Latitude (decimal degrees) |) 3 | 1 1 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 0 | j 1 | | ngitude mal degree | | <u>L </u> | 0 5 | 5 | • 4 | <u>1 '</u> | 4 4 | 5 | <u>; </u> | 6 |
| 07 8 N | *1 Rd\ | | WHICH IH | *Hwy | OCCURR | ?ED | | 2 Rdwy. | 1 | Block | | | | Street | | * Str | | | | | | | | | 4 Stre | | | \dashv |
| FICATION & | | rash Oc | ccurred | d on a Priva | n. vate Drive c | | Toll R | | Speed | Num. | | Const | | | Workers | Nam | res S | Street | | | | | | | Suffix | | | |
| EΙ | | | | | arking Lot | | 1011 2 | | Limit C TION, NEA | 70 AREST IN | | Zone | e 🗓 | No I | Present | ⊠N | اo ا | Desc. | | | | | | | | | — | |
| ΙDΕ | | Yes | | dwy. | | Hwy. | 11.4. | | 2. Rdwy. | | Block Num. | 100 111 | | 3 Street | | | Street | | | | | | | | 4 Stre | | | |
| | Distan | nce fron | m Int. | 0.2 | | FT | | Dir. from | Int. | | Reference | | — | Stre | | — | Ivanic | | | | | | RX | | | | | - |
| H | Unit | f. Marke | 5 U | Jnit | 一一 | Parked | T | Ref. Mar | d LP | | Marker LP | | — | Des | | | | | | _ | | | lum. | | | | | 4 |
| | Num. | 5 | Des | esc. 6 | 6. Veh. | | <u> </u> | Run | State T | И | Num. _T | T71916 | 63 | Ve | | | | R A | 1 ^A 1 | 5 | 6 1 7 Boo | | ⁵ | K 2 | Pol. | 2 6 | MS on | 1 in in |
| | Year 8 DL/I | 1 ² 1 | L ⁰ L | 0 5 DL/ID | Color | | /ID | | | EAT DA | ANE TRAI | | \neg | | odel UNI | KNOW | 7N 11 DL | | | ро | Style | | <u> </u> | | | | y (Explair f checked | |
| | Туре | ess (Str | | State | | Nun | | | | | Class | | | End. | | | Rest. | | | | M/DD/YY | YYY) [| | ⊥′∟ | | ш | | Щ |
| | City, S | State, Z | ZIP) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | T | | | | | | | | | |
| SONS | Person Num. | 12 Prsn. Type | 13 Seat Position | | F | Enter Dr | river o | | e: Last, First ary Person 1 | - | | st line | | | 14 Injury Severity | Age | 15 Ethnicity | Sex . | 17 Eject. | 18 Restr. | 19 Airbag | elmet | 21 Sol. | 22 Alc. Spec. | Alc. Result | 23 Drug Spec. | 24 Drug Result | 25 Drug Category |
| & PER | ĕź | 12 <u>5</u> | E 5 | | | | | | <u>.</u> | | | | | | \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ | ¥ | E # | 16 | 11 | 18 | 19 A: | ž S | 21 | \$ 22 | <u>\$</u> \$ | | <u>¥</u> ₩ | <u>খন</u> |
| VEHICLE, DRIVER, & PERSONS | \square | \sqcap | | | | | | | | | | | | | +- | | H | \vdash | | | | | | | | | | \dashv |
| LE, DF | \square | \Box | | | | | | | | | | | | | ++ | | - | \square | | | | | | Drug | t Applical g Results Driver/Pr | are only | ly repor | rted |
| VEHIC | \Box | \Box | | | | | | | | | | | | | ++ | | | \Box | | | | | | | | ch Unit. | | |
| | | wner essee | | ner/Lesse me & Add | ee dress Est | · - n. | | T | 300 | | 2 CM | | | | 22020 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Proof | of 🗓 ` | Yes [| Expire | ed 26 Fin | n. | | | Fin. Resp. 1 | | nal Unio | Rich on Fir | | | | n. Resp | • | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Fin. R | | • | Exemp | <u> </u> | o. Type 2 | | | Name (| Company :le | У | | | | | um. 27 V | 774 Vehicle | 12246 | 1 | | | | | | | hide | | Yes |
| | | e Num. | (888 | 3) 609- | -7046 | | | | Damage | | | - - | | V B | _ 7 | | mage R | | <u>²</u> | Ш | | | | | Inv | entorie | ed 🔯 (| No |
| | Ву | | | owing | (915) | 369-4 | _ | | . 1, 5 | To | 806 E I | Broad | way | Van H | orn, | TX 7 | 9855 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Unit Num. | 6 | 5 U Des | Jnit esc. 6 | \Box | Parked Vehicle | | Hit and Run | State T | N | LP Num. 9 | 993800 | 0 | | VIN | ¹ | G I | R A | L ^A L | 5 | 6 1 | | 1 ⁷ 1 | к 2 | | 2 4 | | l ⁶ |
| | Veh. Yexar | 121 | 0 | 0 7 | 6. Veh. Color | WHI | | | Veh. Make GR | EAT DA | ANE TRAI | (LERS | | Ve Mo | eh. odel UNF | KNOW | N | | | | 7 Boo Style | | | | Eme Nar | ., Fire, EM ergency rrative if | MS on y (Explair f checked | n in ed) |
| | 8 DL/II Type | D | | DL/ID State | | DL/I Nun | | | | | 9 DL Class | | | 10 CDL End. | | | 11 DL Rest. | | _ | DO (MN | B M/DD/YY | - YYY) [| - | - 1 | - 1 <u>L</u> | _ | _ | _ - |
| | | ess (Stre State, Z | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| SNS | £Q. | ĘŠ. | iat tion | | | | | | e: Last, First | | | | | | juny | | icity | Sex | ect. | estr. | ag | net | <u>6</u> | ن. نــ | 복 | . rg | on ∓ | rug gory |
| VEHICLE, DRIVER, & PERSONS | 62500 5 | 12 Prsn. Type | 13 Se Posit | <u> </u> | E | Enter Dri | iver o | r Prima | ary Person 1 | ior this U | Jnit on firs | t line | | | 14 Injury Severity | Age | 15 Ethnicity | 16 Se | 17 Eject. | 18 Restr. | 19 Airbí | 20 Helmet | 21 Sol. | 22 Alc. Spec. | Alc. Result | 23 Drug Spec. | 24 Drug Result | 25 Drug Category |
| ER, & | sr: 920 | Ш | \bigsqcup | <u> </u> | | | | | | | | | | | \perp | <u> </u> | igsqcup | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRIV | Number | Ш | | | | | | | | | | | | | $\perp \!\!\! \perp$ | <u> </u> | | \bigsqcup | | | | | <u> </u> | | t Applical g Results | | | |
| HICLE | Ž V | $\vdash \vdash$ | \vdash | | | | | | | | | | | | \perp | <u> </u> | | \sqcup | | | | | <u> </u> | | Driver/Pr | | Person f | |
| VE | neut oral | wner | | ner/Lesse | 99 AFF | h, | | | # | | | APPROX. | h, | | <u> </u> | ' | | | | | | | | | | | — | |
| | <u>⊠</u> Le | essee | Nan | me & Add | dress _{Est} | W W. W | rpres | | | | road ST | | | | | | | 7 | | | | | <u> </u> | | | | | |
| | Proof of File Re | of 🄼 ` esp. 🔲 I | Yes No | Expired Exemp | | n. o. Type 2 | | 1227 | I | Nationa Company | al Unio | n Fir | :e Т | nsurar | | n. Resp um. | | 12246 | | Free | | *thar | | | | | | |
| | Fig. R | esp. a Num | - (888 | 3) 609- | -7046 | | | | 27 Vehici Damage | | | - - | - | V _В | , - _, 7 | | Vehicle mage R | | 2 | 1 1 | _ | 1 | ı | _ - | | hicle rentorie | d ⊠ (| Yes No |
| | Tower | d | A To | | | 5) 369- | -414 | 3 | | Towed To | d 806 E I | Broad | iway | Van F | lorn, | TX 7 | 9855 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Lav For | / Enforce m CR-3 | emen (Rev | t and /. 1/1/ | TxDOT 2018) | Use OI | I | Case D | 0004 | 0.1/0 | | - | TxDOT Crash ID | 17342 | 881.1/2 | 019502 | 540 | 0 | | Pa | ige_6_of_ |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| | Un Nur | it F | rsn. Ium. | | | Case t | Taken To | -005 1 | 2-KU | 900 | ament | Taken By | Hed I | 912312 | | Date of (MM/DD | Death (YYYY) | | Time o | f Death R·MM) |
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| Ą | <u> </u> | \top | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | + ; - | <u> </u> |
| DISPOSITION OF | <u> </u> | \top | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | + | |
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Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Certified Document Number:92653006 - Page 1 of 3

EXHIBIT C

CAUSE NO. 2020-60502

| CONNELL WEST TRUCKING CO., | § | IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| INC., FIDADELFO JUAREZ and | § | |
| GUCHARAN SINGH, | § | |
| | § | |
| Plaintiffs, | § | |
| | § | |
| v. | § | HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS |
| | § | |
| ESTES EXPRESS LINES and | § | |
| CAROLYN DRIGGARS as | § | |
| Representative of the Estate of | § | |
| DEBORAH REGAN, | § | |
| | § | |
| Defendants. | § | 215 TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT |

UNSWORN DECLARATION UNDER § 132.001 TEXAS CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE

- 1. "My name is Janice Beacham, my date of birth is April 17, 1965, and my business address with Estes Express Lines is 3901 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of declarant's personal knowledge. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years, am of sound mind, and am fully competent in all respects to make this Affidavit. I have acquired personal knowledge of the statements contained by this affidavit by way of my position with Estes Express Lines as Director Risk Management for 24 years.
- 2. Estes Express Lines (Estes Express) maintains a terminal (Houston Terminal) located in Houston, Texas in Harris County, at 7345 Roundhouse Lane, Houston, Texas 77078. The Terminal Manager's name is Tony Oha (Oha). Oha is not an executive or high-level officer of Estes Express. Oha does have some managerial authority regarding the daily operations of the Houston Terminal, but Oha remains under the direction of and is subordinate to the high-level officers who are located at Estes Express's corporate offices located in Richmond, Virginia. As a Terminal Manager, Oha does not have decision making authority regarding the overall daily operations of Estes Express. None of the employees within the Houston Terminal have decision making authority regarding the overall daily operations of Estes Express.
- 3. The high-level officers and executives of Estes Express are all located at Estes Express's corporate headquarters (principle offices) located in Richmond, Virginia. These high-level officers include the Chief Executive Officer (Robey E. Estes Jr.), Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President (Stephen E. Hupp), Treasurer (Kelly L. Samuel), Vice Presidents (Robert W. Speight and Patricia A. Garland). The other high-level directors and officers of Estes Express are all located at Estes Express's corporate headquarters which are all located in Richmond, Virginia.

4. The high-level officers and executives of Estes Express located at the corporate offices in Richmond, Virginia are the decision makers who have the authority to control and dictate the overall daily operations and corporate affairs of Estes Express. These high-level officers and executives oversee the operations of Estes Express's terminals nationwide which includes the Houston Terminal. Estes Express does not maintain any corporate headquarters or principle offices in the State of Texas.

Further Declarant Sayeth Not.

Executed in City of Richmond, Virginia on October 15, 2020.

Declarant - Janice Beacham"



Certified Document Number: 92653006 Total Pages: 3

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

By: Iliana Perez Filed: 10/15/2020 6:17 PM

CAUSE NO. 2020-60502

| CONNELL WEST TRUCKING CO., | § | IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| INC., FIDADELFO JUAREZ and | § | |
| GUCHARAN SINGH, | § | |
| | § | |
| Plaintiffs, | § | |
| | § | |
| v. | § | HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS |
| | § | |
| ESTES EXPRESS LINES and | § | |
| CAROLYN DRIGGARS as | § | |
| Representative of the Estate of | § | |
| DEBORAH REGAN, | § | |
| | § | |
| Defendants. | § | 215 TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT |

SUBJECT TO ITS MOTION TO TRANSFER VENUE TO HUDSPETH COUNTY, TEXAS
DEFENDANT'S, ESTES EXPRESS LINES, ORIGINAL ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL
PETITION, AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES, AND SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Subject to its Motion to Transfer Venue to Hudspeth County, Texas, Defendant, Estes Express Lines ("Defendant"), in the above-styled and numbered cause, files this, its Original Answer to Plaintiffs' Original Petition and Affirmative Defenses. In support thereof, Defendant respectfully shows as follows.

A. General Denial

Pursuant to Rule 92 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendant generally denies the allegations contained in Plaintiffs' Original Petition (including all subsequently filed amended and/or supplemental petitions), and respectfully requests that Plaintiffs be required to prove their claims by a preponderance of the credible evidence as required by Texas law.

B. Defendant's Affirmative Defenses

Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 94, Defendant asserts the following affirmative defenses against Plaintiffs' claims and causes of action:

- 1. In the alternative and without waiving the foregoing, in the event additional defendants are joined, Defendant affirmatively alleges that in accordance with Section 33.013 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, Defendant may not be held jointly and severally liable for any amount of damages claimed herein unless the percentage of responsibility of Defendant, when compared with that of each responsible party, settling person, and responsible third party, is greater than fifty percent (50%).
- 2. In the alternative and without waiving the foregoing, in the event Plaintiffs settle with any party who may be responsible, in whole or in part, for any of the alleged injuries and/or damages, Defendant pleads its entitlement to have such person designated as a settling person under Tex. CIV. Prac. & Rem. Code §33.003.
- 3. In the alternative and without waiving the foregoing, Defendant asserts that in the event it is found liable, Defendant is entitled to full indemnity and/or contribution and/or credit from all parties or settling persons or defendants as provided in Chapter 33 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.
- 4. In the alternative and without waiving the foregoing, to the extent that any claim or portion thereof asserted by Plaintiffs are derivative of any other claim, Defendant asserts all affirmative defenses listed herein against both the dominant claim and the derivative claim.
- 5. In the alternative and without waiving the foregoing, Defendant asserts that in the event of recovery of damages from this Defendant in this case, any award of pre- and/or post judgment interest is limited by the provisions of §§ 304.103, 304.1045, and 304.003, Texas Finance Code.
- 6. As further affirmative defense herein, and to the extent necessary (and without waiving the foregoing and/or in the alternative), Defendant asserts that in the event an award of

damages is made to Plaintiffs, Defendant is entitled to such reduction as required by Section 18.091, Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code, which states as follows: "Notwithstanding any other law, if any claimant seeks recovery for loss of earnings, loss of earning capacity, loss of contributions of a pecuniary value, or loss of inheritance, evidence to prove the loss must be presented in the form of a net loss after reduction for income tax payments or unpaid tax liability pursuant to any federal income tax law." Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 18.091. Further, in the event that Plaintiffs fail to satisfy the evidentiary standards of section 18.091, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Plaintiffs are barred from recovering any damages in this suit.

- As further affirmative defense herein, and to the extent necessary (and without waiving the foregoing and/or in the alternative), Defendant asserts that in the event an award of damages is made to Plaintiffs, Defendant is entitled to such reductions as required by § 41.0105 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, which states as follows: "In addition to any other limitation under law, recovery of medical or health care expenses incurred is limited to the amount actually paid or incurred by or on behalf of the claimant." Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 41.0105. Consequently, Defendant would show Plaintiffs are only entitled to medical expenses actually paid to or incurred as a result of treatment provided by their healthcare provider(s), and not the amount(s) initially charged by their medical provider(s), and/or amounts written-off and adjusted for which Plaintiffs are not responsible.
- 8. In the alternative and without waiving the foregoing, with respect to Plaintiffs' claims for punitive or exemplary damages, Defendant alleges as follows:
 - a. Plaintiffs may not be awarded exemplary damages unless they establish by clear and convincing evidence that Defendant acted with gross neglect, which Defendant denies. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 41.003.
 - b. Defendant insists that in the unlikely event any claim for recovery of punitive damages is submitted to the jury, that in accordance with TEX. CIV.

PRAC. & REM. CODE § 41.003(d) and (3), the Charge of the Court instruct the jury that any finding of "liability for and amount of exemplary damages" must be unanimous.

- c. In the unlikely event of any exemplary damage award, Defendant further invokes the provisions of Tex. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE § 41.008 limiting any award of exemplary damages to either \$200,000 or two times the amount of "economic damages," as defined by statute, plus an amount equal to any non-economic damages found by the jury, but not to exceed \$750,000.
- 9. In the alternative, and without waiving the foregoing, Plaintiff Connell West Trucking Co., Inc.'s (Plaintiff-CWTC) property damage claims based on loss of use are barred, in whole or in part to the extent Plaintiff-CWTC failed to reasonably mitigate its damages and/or avoid consequences as a reasonably prudent person would have done under the same or similar facts or circumstances. "A plaintiff may not recover loss of-use damages for a period longer than that reasonably needed to replace the personal property." *See J&D Towing, LLC v. Am. Alternative Ins. Corp.*, 478 S.W.3d 649, 677 (Tex. 2016).
- 10. In the alternative and without waiving the foregoing, Defendant affirmatively asserts that Plaintiff-CWTC's damage claim to recover for "business related losses" is not a cognizable category of damages in Texas, and is not a recognized measure of damages under Texas law.

C. Defendant's Special Exceptions to Plaintiffs' Petition--Plaintiffs' Maximum Damages

1. Plaintiffs have failed to state the maximum amount of their claimed damages. Defendant specially excepts to Plaintiffs' Petition pursuant to Tex. R. Civ. P. 47 and asks that Plaintiffs be required to replead and to specify the maximum amount of damages sought. *See Herrera v. Household Fin. Corp.*, No. 04-08-00134-CV, *III*, 2009 Tex. App. LEXIS 2915, at *12 (Tex. App.—San Antonio Apr. 29, 2009, no pet.) (noting that plaintiffs may initially allege that their damage claims are within jurisdictional limits, but that upon special exception, Rule 47 requires them "to specify maximum amount of damages claimed").

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2. Defendant specially excepts to paragraph 4.5 of Plaintiffs' Original Petition because it seeks to recover for "business related losses" which is not a cognizable category of damages in Texas.

D. Right to Supplement/Amend

Defendant reserves the right to supplement or amend this pleading at a later date.

E. Jury Demand

Defendant requests a trial by jury of all issues of fact raised in this action.

F. Prayer

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant, Estes Express Lines respectfully requests that Plaintiffs take nothing by reason of the allegations contained in Plaintiffs' Original Petition (including any amended and/or supplemental petitions subsequently filed), and for all other relief to which Defendant may be justly entitled under law or equity.

Respectfully submitted,

RINCON LAW GROUP, P.C. 1014 N. Mesa, Suite 200 El Paso, Texas 79902 (915) 532-6800 (Telephone) (915) 532-6808 (Facsimile)

By: /s/ Sergio E. Chavez
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CRincon@rinconlawgroup.com
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SChavez@rinconlawgroup.com

Attorneys for Estes Express Lines

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served as follows on the parties through their counsel of record on this 15^{th} day of October 2020.

| Brant J. Stogner | \boxtimes | Via Electronic Service |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Jonathan D. Sneed | | Via Facsimile Transmission |
| ABRAHAM, WATKINS, NICHOLS, SORRELS, | \boxtimes | Via E-Mail |
| AGOSTO, AZIZ & STOGNER | | Via Certified Mail, RRR |
| 800 Commerce St. | _ | • |
| Houston, Texas 77002-1776 | | Via USPS First Class |
| (713) 222-7211 (Telephone) | | Via Hand Delivery |
| (713) 225-0827 (Facsimile) | | Via Commercial Delivery Service |
| bstogner@awtxlaw.com | | · |
| jsneed@awtxlaw.com | | |
| Attorneys for Plaintiffs | | |
| | /s/ Sergio E. | Chavez |
| | SERGIO E. O | CHAVEZ |
| | | |



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Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS